

## THE GIVE-AWAY RACKET.

A Little Operation by a Jewelry Tramp.

"While I was at Brunswick, Georgia, some time ago," said a jewelry tramp, "I took revenge on the town by playing what we term a 'give-away racket.' It's a mighty fine thing to play, and a fellow has to be mighty careful about working it or he will get caught out. It can only be played once in a town.

"The way to do it is this: Get a lot of fine gold rings which cost about a dollar a dozen and propose to be advertising some big gold concern in New York. First, I made a speech to the crowd, in which I stated my business; then I commenced to offer the rings at any price from two cents up, telling them that they could not be bought for less than four dollars apiece at a jeweler's. I let out about twenty rings at two cents, and then asked everybody who had bought rings to hold them up. Instantly every ring was in the air. 'Now,' said I, addressing the crowd, 'this is your money, is it?' 'Yes,' said a dozen. 'And you give it up freely for the rings?' 'Yes,' came again in chorus. 'Very well, here's twenty cents for you, sir; and twenty cents for you, sir,' and so on around the crowd. They commenced to wonder what in the world I meant; said I was crazy, and a lot of other things, but I only told them I was advertising goods for my house and had plenty more things to give away. Next I took up some of my handsome diamond studs, which I explained were Lake George diamonds, equal to any on earth, etc., and that I was going to sell them from twenty-five cents up, the more one paid the better it would be, of course, for him. Twenty studs were soon out and the same speech made. Then I made the crowd hold up the diamonds and every man got a half dollar back who had bought.

"The thing began to get very interesting, and the crowd numbered three or four hundred. Then I got out some beautiful gold-plated sleeve buttons, which I explained could not be bought for less than twelve dollars. These I proposed to sell for fifty cents each, giving all who bought a dollar additional as before, each time doubling the money gift. The buttons soon went off, as had the other things, and I was ready for the final 'bite' at the crowd. The twenty pairs of sleeve buttons had been sold for half a dollar, and I had given back twenty silver dollars.

"That fellow's a darned fool," I heard all around me, but I replied to this by saying that last week in Macon I had given away \$2,500, and that I was ready to do it again. "The crowd was perfectly crazy to see what came next. It was watch chains. The chains I was to sell at any price from two dollars and a half to anything above that one wanted to give, I telling them the while that the more they paid the better 'twould be for them. I hinted that the watches would come next, and this set them off like madmen. The trick now was to sell as many as possible at two dollars and a half. I had a devil of a lot of chains, and so I sent them out right and left. The dollars came rushing blindly at me, and I raked them in like chaff. Then I got out of chains.

"Previously I had prepared two big red silk handkerchiefs exactly alike, and as soon as the chains were all sold I took the money and in the presence of the crowd, tied it all up together, and after making a speech, proposed to throw the bundle in the crowd for the best man to take. While talking I purposely dropped the bundle into my little box by my side, in which I had the other handkerchief. In this one was ten dollars in silver and some paper to make it stand out and look like the other one I had dropped. All this had been arranged beforehand, of course. With a whoop I swung the bag around my head after stooping to pick it up where I had first dropped it, and up it went in the air. Great heavens! you should have seen that mob! I never saw anything like it. They fought like tigers over the handkerchief, while I took occasion to leave the spot. I had also arranged to bring the thing to a climax about the time the Albany train left, so I was driven at once to the depot. I was just two hundred and eighty dollars ahead. But I got very weak in the knees while waiting at the depot. I was a little too soon, and about a dozen young men run up raising the very mischief of a noise, which I thought was for me, and it proved to be true. They saw me and came around me laughing and knocking each other like crazy men. I didn't know what on earth was the matter until they finally told me it was the best joke that had ever been played on Brunswick, and although they were victimized, they wanted to assure me it was all right.

"I had sold the chains to nearly all the best men in Brunswick, some of them paying me as high as five dollars for them. You may put it down for a

fact that any average American crowd can be humbugged the same way every day in the year."—Atlanta Constitution.

## How a Venerable Maiden's Curiosity was Satisfied.

A lovely maiden, who was the pride of home and parents in a neighboring town, concluded to hide away from the dust and bustle of the village, and spend a few weeks in the shade of the umbrageous woods lying by the pellucid waters of a quiet lake, and surrounded by a grand and romantic mountain. The fond parents sent her in charge of an antiquated and somewhat meddlesome aunt. Only a few days elapsed before a fair Adonis stepped along who was ripe for a conquest. They soon became in the habit of taking long walks through the groves in each other's company. To the lynx-eyed old maiden aunt this was gall and wormwood. On an occasion appointed by herself she proceeded cautiously down the lane usually pursued by the lovers, and, concealing herself behind some bushes, waited until they proceeded by her. Not far from the spot was a little lake or pond forming a beautiful nook, and surrounded to the water's edge by thick bushes and trees. Towards this Venus and Adonis had trudged. As the untarnished maiden of many years approached she was surprised to hear the loud and merry ring of laughter and splashing of water and the shouts of glee and merry-making. She silently and cautiously made an opening through the thicket, which commanded a full view of the pond. Heavens and earth! what a sight met her horrified gaze. There was "Venus rising from the sea" in all her pristine vigor and her denuded beauty. There was Adonis also, untrammelled by the frail habiliments of art, which are commonly supplied, which seemed to be quite sufficient on the occasion, owing to the heated state of the weather. Adonis was splashing water over his beloved Venus in a playful and childlike manner, and she was laughing and chattering as merrily as if she was in the fashionable throng of the ball-room—in fact, they had gone in swimming, and seemed to be enjoying the sport in a right royal manner. The old maiden aunt smothered her righteous indignation for the time and silently stole away. A short time afterwards the truant couple came tripping home toward the hotel, and were as lively and social as any in the throng. A marriage is likely to end the romance.—Truckee Republican.

## A Lesson of Filial Love.

General Evans in his funeral oration over the bier of the late Senator Hill used these words: "In all his life Ben Hill never did a more graceful thing than when he made his last visit to the portrait of his mother which hung in one of his rooms. When President Garfield placed his manly arm around his venerable mother in the presence of the vast multitudes that witnessed his inauguration and kissed her with lips fresh from pronouncing the obligation of the presidential office, he drew into himself the warm heart of American motherhood forever. So, when the great Senator went as a child to gaze on his mother's pictured face, and murmured, 'I will soon see her,' he left the sons of this state and union a lesson of filial love that they should never forget. The portrait shows a dear, old, good face well traced with marks of intelligence. The wrinkles are there, the stoop of age and other signs of failing life. Long since she passed away. But the statesman became a boy again in feeling, gazed with a true, adoring love upon the portrait, and then above the faded picture looked with eyes that saw home and heaven and mother all in one vision of transcendent glory."

## Sorrows of a "Masher."

There were plenty of seats in the car, but as he walked down the aisle he looked sharply to the right and left until he reached a pretty girl, who was sitting alone. "Seat engaged, Miss?" he asked, with a knowing wink. "No, sir," stammered the girl, looking around in dismay. Down he plumped and braced himself for the campaign. He was a regular passenger, and held his commutation ticket in his hand. "Shall I open?" "Tickets!" roared the conductor, who had watched him from afar. The regular passenger smiled sweetly at the pretty girl and put up his pasteboard, out of which two rides were promptly nipped. "Tickets!" "Hold on!" protested the regular passenger, "you punched this twice. This lady isn't with me." "Sorry," replied the conductor, "but you walked in, set down and went to work on the regular married style. Supposed, of course, it was your wife. Too late now. Take a vacant seat next time. Tickets!" And the passengers went to the conductor and offered him cigars and bought out the train boy for him. "I knew they weren't married," said he. "I've seen him before, but this is the first time it cost him a couple of dollars to play it." "Do you know who the lady is?" asked an inquisitive man. "My wife, gentlemen," replied the conductor.

## RULES FOR EQUESTRIANS.

Hints on Horseback Riding for Nervous Amateurs.

In mounting, face the near side of the horse. The near side is the side nearest yourself. If you stand on the right side of the horse, which is the wrong side when you mount you will face the crupper. Then everybody will know your name is Johanna Gottlieb Ernsigefolger. If you cannot mount from the ground lead the horse to a high fence, climb up on the fence and say "whoa" two or three times, and jump over the horse's ears. You will light somewhere on his neck, and will have plenty of time to adjust yourself while the horse is running away. Another method of mounting, largely practiced by the young gentlemen from the city, is to balance yourself on one foot on the fence and point the other leg at the horse in the general direction of the saddle, saying "whoa" all the time. The horse, after this gesture has been repeated two or three times, backs away, pulls his alleged rider off the fence, and walks up and down with him at a rapid gallop. This gives the rider, in about ten minutes, all the exercise he wants. If by some miracle you manage to get in the saddle, hold on with both hands and say "whoa." The faster the horse goes the tighter you must hold on and the louder you must "holer." If you are from New York or Philadelphia, you will shorten your stirrups until your knees are on a level with your chin. Then, as you ride, you will rise to your feet and stand in the attitude of a man peering over a fence looking after his dog, and then suddenly fall in the saddle like a man who has stepped on a banana peel. This is the English school. It is hard on the horse, but is considered very graceful. A man cannot wear false teeth, however, and ride in this manner.—Burlington Hawkeye.

## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

And Items of General Interest About Distinguished Characters.

—The Arizona Indians are reported to be on the war path again. The war is in hand.

—James G. Blaine, who used to boast that he was one of the people, now chatters a whole car when he travels.

—The Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon has of late been suffering severely from the gout. He is about to leave London for Mentone, where he will spend a month, and where he expects to gain relief from his ailment.

—Another scandal regarding the Soldiers' Home at Washington has come to the surface. This time it is in relation to corned beef. It is gratifying, however, to know that the dried apples have thus far escaped the breath of calumny.

—The wife of the notorious Tichborne claimant, and her two children, are inmates of a work house, at Southampton, England. She still persists in calling herself "Lady Tichborne," and her name stands as such on the register.

—A hack fell into the river at Sheboygan, Sunday night, and was smashed to pieces, the team being drowned. It is hardly necessary to state that the hackman escaped. It is thought by some, however, that a large ocean steamship might jar a hackman a little.

—Father Peter John Beck, the general of the order of Jesuits, is now in his 87th year, and his declining health has, of late, given rise to much speculation concerning his probable successor. He has been at the head of the order for nearly thirty years, which is an unusually long period, since it is the rule for only men already well advanced in years to be elevated to the position.

—A Milwaukee dispatch states that the Polish residence portion of that city was frightened almost to death this afternoon by the rumor circulated in that section that the comet had dropped into the sun at five o'clock this morning, and the end of the world was nigh. Why any one living in Milwaukee should object to the world coming to an end, is not clear.

## Helen's Other Baby.

"What makes that noise?" asked a little boy on the cars the other day. "The cars," answered the mother. "What for?" "Because they are moving." "What are they moving for?" "The engine makes them." "What engine?" "The one in front." "What is it in front for?" "I told you that before." "Told you what?" "Told you." "What for?" "Oh, be still; you're a nuisance." "What's a nuisance?" "A boy who asks too many questions." "Whose boy?" "My boy." "What questions?" "The conductor came just then and took up tickets, and the train pulled up at the station." "The last we heard, as the lady jerked the youngster off the platform, was: 'What conductor?'"

The public is requested carefully to notice the new and enlarged schedule to be drawn monthly.

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List of Prizes

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
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| 1 do                          | 25,000   |
| 2 PRIZES OF \$5,000           | 10,000   |
| 5 do                          | 2,000    |
| 10 do                         | 1,000    |
| 20 do                         | 500      |
| 100 do                        | 200      |
| 300 do                        | 100      |
| 500 do                        | 50       |
| 1000 do                       | 25       |
| Approximation prizes of \$750 | \$6,750  |
| 9 " " " " " "                 | 4,500    |
| 9 " " " " " "                 | 2,250    |

1887 Prizes, amounting to \$255,500

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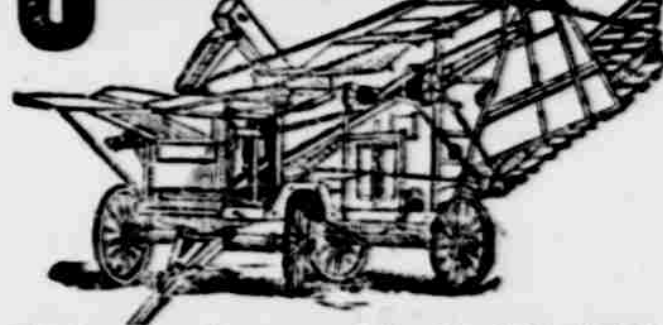
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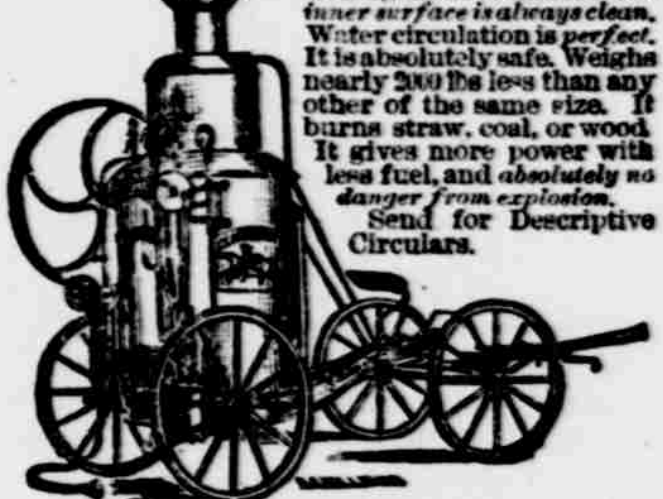
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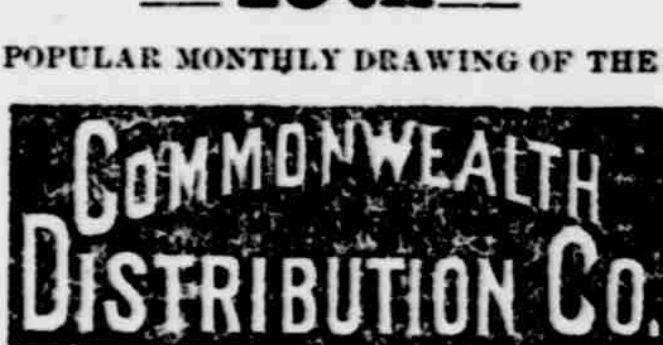


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|-----------|------------|---------------------|-----------|
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| 1 Prize   | 10,000     | 200 Prizes          | 50,000    |
| 1 Prize   | 5,000      | 500 Prizes          | 20,000    |
| 10 Prizes | \$1,000    | 1,000 Prizes        | 10,000    |
| 20 Prizes | 500        | 10,000              | 500       |
| 9 Prizes  | \$200 each | approximation prize | \$2,700   |
| 9 Prizes  | 200        | " " " "             | 1,800     |
| 9 Prizes  | 100        | " " " "             | 900       |

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